Montana Fish & Wildlife Conservation Trust

JOINT STATE - FEDERAL BOARD -AND -CITIZEN'S ADVISORY BOARD







John Gibson Angler

Chuck Hahn Landowner

Bill Orsello Hunter







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July 24, 2007

Dear County Commissioners,

Ravalli County Commissioners

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RE: REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS: Projects Submitted for Funding to the Montana Fish and Wildlife Conservation Trust

The Montana Fish and Wildlife Conservation Trust is requesting public comments on project proposals submitted for funding to the Trust in 2007. As a county in which there is a proposal(s) for funding, the Trust wanted to inform you of this comment period.

The Trust was established by the US Congress, and funded by proceeds from the sale of federally leased cabin sites on Canyon Ferry Reservoir. The purpose of this Trust is to provide a permanent source of funding for the acquisition of publicly accessible land in the State of Montana in order to:

- Restore and conserve fisheries habitat, including riparian habitat;
- Restore and conserve wildlife habitat;
- Enhance public hunting, fishing and recreational opportunities:
- Improve public access to public lands.

Two independent oversight Boards, a Joint State-Federal Board and a Citizen Advisory Board, are responsible for insuring the goals of the trust are met.

Interim project applications have been received over the past month. All applications have gone through the first phase of review by the Citizen's Advisory Board. The proposed projects for funding are now put into a 30 day public comment period. Written comments on the projects will be accepted for a 30-day period beginning July 25, 2007 and ending 5:00 p.m. on August 24, 2007. The three projects recommended by the Citizens Advisory Board for funding are: Jerry & Nancy Bodmer Conservation Easement; Skalkaho/Brennon Gulch Property; and the Mullen Pass Conservation Easement.

Copies of the proposed projects nominated for funding are available during business hours at the Montana Fish and Wildlife Trust Office, located at the Montana Wildlife Federation Complex, 5530 North Montana Ave.,

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Montana Fish & Wildlife Conservation Trust

JOINT STATE - FEDERAL BOARD -AND CITIZEN'S ADVISORY BOARD

Helena, Montana, 59602, 406-458-0389 or 800-517-7256. Requests for copies may also be made by email at fwctrust@mtwf.org.

Following the comment period, the Joint Federal-State Board will review comments and act on proposals at their meeting on September 18, 2007.

Thank you.

William F. Orsello, Chair Citizens Advisory Board

Montana Fish & Wildlife Conservation Trust